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1     Wind turbine

2

3     The invention relates to wind turbines, and more  
4     particularly to a wind turbine for mounting on a  
5     roof and for use with a domestic heating system.

6

7     Governments are committed to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions  
8     over the next few years. Along with energy  
9     efficiency measures there has been an increased  
10    emphasis on renewable sources of energy. Analysis  
11    of energy demand shows that 6% of the UK's annual  
12    energy demand is from domestic water heating and 12%  
13    from domestic space heating. Use of wind turbine  
14    technology could provide substantial economic  
15    benefits to over 33% of UK households and could  
16    reduce the UK's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by as much as 2%.  
17    Similar benefits are possible in other countries.

18

19    Existing micro wind turbines used to generate  
20    domestic electricity require expensive intermediate  
21    battery systems to compensate for the unregulated  
22    and inconsistent supply of electricity produced.

1 Existing turbines of a size suitable for mounting on  
2 a roof to provide domestic power are designed for  
3 smooth airflow only and will oscillate violently  
4 with the compressed and turbulent airflow found  
5 over, and around, buildings creating noise and  
6 inefficient generation.

7  
8 It is an object of the present invention to overcome  
9 one or more of the aforementioned problems.

10  
11 According to a first aspect of the invention there  
12 is provided a rotor for a wind turbine comprising a  
13 plurality of radial blades and a ring-shaped  
14 aerofoil diffuser connecting the outer tips of the  
15 blades.

16  
17 Preferably the aerofoil diffuser extends downstream  
18 from the outer tips of the blades. The outer tips  
19 of the blades may be connected to the diffuser at  
20 the leading edge of the diffuser. Preferably the  
21 aerofoil diffuser tapers radially outwards from the  
22 outer tips of the blades to form a substantially  
23 frusto-conical diffuser.

24  
25 Preferably the blades are inclined at an angle  
26 relative to a transverse rotor plane perpendicular  
27 to the rotational axis of the rotor. The angle of  
28 inclination may vary along the length of the blade.

29  
30 Preferably the angle of inclination of each blade is  
31 greater at an intermediate portion of the blade than  
32 at the outer tip of the blade. Preferably the blade

1 is substantially parallel to the transverse rotor  
2 plane at the outer tip of the blade.

3  
4 According to a second aspect of the invention there  
5 is provided a wind turbine comprising a rotor  
6 according to the first aspect. Preferably the wind  
7 turbine further comprises mounting means adapted to  
8 allow rotation of the turbine and rotor about a  
9 directional axis perpendicular to the rotational  
10 axis. This allows the turbine to be oriented in the  
11 optimum direction depending on wind conditions.

12  
13 Preferably the wind turbine further comprises a  
14 furling means adapted to rotate the rotor about the  
15 directional axis so that the rotational axis is not  
16 parallel to the direction of airflow when the  
17 airflow speed is greater than a predetermined  
18 airflow speed. Preferably the aerofoil diffuser is  
19 adapted to divert radial airflow from the outer tips  
20 of the blades to circumferential airflow during  
21 furling when the rotational axis is not parallel to  
22 the direction of airflow.

23  
24 Preferably the furling means comprises a non-linear  
25 furling means adapted to provide no furling over a  
26 first lower range of airflow speed and a varying  
27 degree of furling over a second higher range of  
28 airflow speed. Preferably the furling means  
29 comprises at least two tail fins extending  
30 downstream of the diffuser. Preferably the furling  
31 means comprises two tail fins provided diametrically  
32 opposite each other, but more tail fins may be

1 provided if required, providing the positions of the  
2 tail fins are balanced.

3  
4 Preferably one of the tail fins is a moveable tail  
5 fin hingedly mounted for rotation about a tangential  
6 hinge line. The moveable tail fin may be mounted on  
7 mounting boom and the hinge line may be provided at  
8 the connection point of the mounting boom and the  
9 nacelle, so that the mounting boom also rotates, or  
10 at the connection between the mounting boom and the  
11 moveable tail fin so that only the moveable tail fin  
12 rotates.

13  
14 Preferably the moveable tail fin is rotationally  
15 biased by biasing means to an at-rest position in  
16 which the leading edge of the moveable tail fin is  
17 closer to the axis of rotation than the trailing  
18 edge of the moveable tail fin, such that the  
19 moveable tail fin is angled at an at-rest attack  
20 angle to the axis of rotation. The biasing means  
21 may be non-linear. Preferably the biasing means is  
22 adapted to hold the moveable tail fin in the at-rest  
23 position until the airflow speed reaches a  
24 predetermined speed. Preferably, as the airflow  
25 speed increases beyond the predetermined speed the  
26 upstream fin rotates and the attack angle decreases.  
27 This results in unbalanced aerodynamic loading on  
28 the wind turbine, so that the wind turbine rotates  
29 about its mounting axis to a furled position.

30

1 According to a third aspect of the present invention  
2 there is provided a wind turbine heating system  
3 comprising:

4 a wind turbine driven generator,  
5 a first liquid storage vessel,  
6 one or more electrical heating elements adapted  
7 to heat liquid in said first vessel, and  
8 control means adapted to control the supply of  
9 electricity generated by said generator to said one  
10 or more electrical heating elements.

11  
12 Preferably the system comprises a wind turbine  
13 according to a second aspect of the invention.

14  
15 Preferably the first liquid storage vessel is a  
16 domestic hot water tank and the liquid is water.

17  
18 Preferably the system comprises a plurality of  
19 electrical heating elements, and the control means  
20 is adapted to supply electrical power to a  
21 proportion of the electrical heating elements, the  
22 proportion being dependent upon the instantaneous  
23 electrical power generated by the generator.

24  
25 The system may comprise a second liquid storage  
26 vessel and one or more auxiliary electrical heating  
27 elements adapted to heat liquid in said second  
28 vessel. The control means may be adapted to supply  
29 electrical power to said one or more auxiliary  
30 electrical heating elements when the temperature of  
31 the liquid in the first vessel reaches a  
32 predetermined temperature. In one embodiment the



1 second liquid storage vessel is a domestic cold  
2 water tank and the liquid is water. In another  
3 embodiment the second liquid storage vessel is a  
4 radiator.

5  
6 Preferably the heating element in the first liquid  
7 vessel is enclosed by means of a tube. This tube is  
8 open on the underside thereof in order to allow  
9 water to flow from beneath the tube towards the  
10 heating element. The tube will enclose and extend  
11 over in essence the entire length of the heating  
12 element. The water near the heating element will be  
13 heated and will flow upwards due to natural  
14 convection. The presence of the tube will direct  
15 the heated water towards a zone of the heated water.  
16 The presence of the tube will enable the formation  
17 of different and separate heat zones within the  
18 first liquid storage vessel.

19  
20 Preferably, the wind turbine heating system  
21 according to the present invention is provided with  
22 a control system in order to control the level of  
23 power taken from the wind turbine. For efficiency  
24 reasons the maximum power take-off from the wind  
25 turbine is approximately 60%, as given by the Betz  
26 limit. According to the present invention the  
27 control system of the wind turbine will measure the  
28 energy yield of the wind turbine in real time. The  
29 control system is adapted to increase or decrease  
30 the power take-off from the wind turbine by a small  
31 amount. After a certain time period, the control  
32 system will measure the energy yield of the wind

1 turbine again. The variation in the yield is  
2 determined and the amount of power taken from the  
3 wind turbine is again adjusted, depending on the  
4 measured value for the yield. When the extra load  
5 on the wind turbine causes the yield of the wind  
6 turbine to increase the control system will increase  
7 the load on the wind turbine further by a small  
8 amount. Thereafter the yield of the wind turbine is  
9 again measured in order to determine the effect of  
10 the further increase of the load on the yield of the  
11 turbine. If the increase of the load will result in  
12 a decrease of the yield, the process is reversed.

13

14 According to a fourth aspect of the invention there  
15 is provided a wind turbine according to the second  
16 aspect comprising means for reducing the operating  
17 vibrations caused by harmonic resonance within the  
18 turbine, tower and mounting structure.

19

20 Preferably the wind turbine is provided with a  
21 nacelle damping system. The nacelle damping system  
22 according to the invention will help to isolate the  
23 vibrations in the generator and turbine from the  
24 tower.

25

26 Preferably the wind turbine is provided with  
27 mounting brackets for mounting the turbine on a  
28 surface, the brackets having a sandwich construction  
29 of visco-elastic materials and structural materials.

30

31 The mounting means can be of any cross-sectional  
32 shape, but is typically tubular. Preferably, the

1 tower contains one or more cores of flexible  
2 material, such as rubber, with sections with a  
3 reduced diameter, which are not in contact with the  
4 tower's inner radial surface. These reduced  
5 diameter sections alternate with normal sized  
6 sections, which are in contact with the tower's  
7 inner surface.

8  
9 This serves to absorb vibrations in the tower  
10 through the energy dissipated in the flexible core  
11 before they reach the mounting brackets. The rubber  
12 core thereby acts to force the system's resonant  
13 frequency above the turbine driving frequency. By  
14 altering the cross-sectional shape and length of  
15 each of the reduced diameter sections, the system  
16 can be "tuned" to remove a range of vibration  
17 frequencies from the mounting structure.

18  
19 The sandwich mounting bracket compliments the  
20 mounting means core design and suppresses vibrations  
21 that come from the nacelle. The nacelle itself  
22 supports the generator through bushes designed to  
23 eliminate the remaining frequencies. These three  
24 systems act as a high/low pass filter where the only  
25 frequencies that are not attenuated are those out-  
26 with the operating range of the turbine.

27  
28 An embodiment of the present invention will now be  
29 described with reference to drawings wherein:

30  
31 Fig 1 shows a schematic view of the wind turbine  
32 according to the present invention;

1

2 Fig 2 shows a top view of the rotor and the furling  
3 device of the wind turbine according to Fig 1;

4

5 Fig 3 shows in detail an embodiment of one boom of  
6 the furling device according to the present  
7 invention;

8

9 Fig 4 shows the connection of the boom according to  
10 Fig 3 through the nacelle;

11

12 Fig 5 shows the connection of the tip of the boom  
13 according to Fig 3 to the tail fin;

14

15 Fig 6 shows a schematic overview of a heating device  
16 for heating water which is adapted to be coupled to  
17 a wind turbine according to the present invention;

18

19 Fig 7 shows diagrammatically the working of the  
20 control system of the heating device according to  
21 Fig 6;

22

23 Figs 8 and 9 show a further embodiment of a heating  
24 device for heating water, which is adapted to be  
25 connected to the wind turbine according to the  
26 present invention; and

27

28 Fig 10 shows a cross-sectional view of the mounting  
29 means for the wind turbine according to the present  
30 invention, wherein the interior is provided with a  
31 vibration damping core.

32

1 Figs 11 and 12 show a cross-sectional view of the  
2 mounting means according to Fig 10 as alternative  
3 embodiments for the vibration damping core.  
4

5 In Fig 1 a possible embodiment of the wind turbine  
6 according to the present invention is shown. The  
7 wind turbine comprises a rotor 20 having a core 25  
8 and radial blades 30 extending from the core 25  
9 towards the outer tip 31 of the blades 30. The  
10 rotor comprises a radial aerofoil 21, attached to  
11 and encircling the rotor blades 30. The rotor 20,  
12 by means of the core 25, is rotationally fixed to a  
13 nacelle 41. The rotor 20 is able to rotate about  
14 the rotational axis 26. The nacelle 41 is  
15 rotationally mounted on top of mounting means 40.  
16 The mounting means 40 allow the wind turbine 10 to  
17 be fixed on a support (not shown). The nacelle 41  
18 moreover is provided with a furling mechanism 50.  
19 The furling mechanism 50 comprises a first boom 51  
20 and a second boom 52. The booms 51,52 and their  
21 respective ends thereof are provided with tail fins  
22 53,54.  
23

24 The furling mechanism 50 has two functions. The  
25 first function is to keep the rotational axis 26 of  
26 the rotor 20 essentially parallel to the  
27 momentaneous direction of the airflow. In Fig 1 the  
28 airflow is schematically indicated by means of  
29 arrows 15. The second function of the furling  
30 device 50 is to rotate the rotor 20 out of the wind  
31 when the wind velocity exceeds the output power  
32 requirements of the wind turbine or endangers the

1 system's integrity, in order to protect the wind  
2 turbine 10 against unacceptable high loads.

3

4 The construction and the working of the furling  
5 mechanism will be clarified below, with reference to  
6 Figs 2, 3, 4 and 5.

7

8 As shown in Fig 1, the radial aerofoil 21 is  
9 attached to and encircles the turbine blades 30.  
10 The radial aerofoil 21 will create a slight venturi  
11 effect near the blade tips where the resulting  
12 increase in air velocity has the largest effect.  
13 This increases the overall efficiency of the turbine  
14 10, which compensates for the slight increase in  
15 weight and drag caused by the addition of the  
16 aerofoil 21. The aerofoil will also create a more  
17 laminar flow along the rotor blades. This is  
18 important since the airflow on a roof typically is  
19 turbulent. A further advantage is the fact that the  
20 presence of the radial aerofoil 21 will increase the  
21 mechanical strength of the rotor 20, allowing more  
22 efficient aerofoil section to each blade 30.

23

24 In Fig 1 it can be seen that the design of the blade  
25 30 is such that the outer tips 31 of the blade 30  
26 are in essence perpendicular to the rotational axis  
27 26.

28

29 The outer tips 31 of the blade are connected near  
30 the leading edge 22 of the aerofoil 21. The number  
31 of blades 30 may be varied.

32

1 In Fig 2 a top view is shown of the rotor 20 and the  
2 furling device 50 of the wind turbine 10 according  
3 to Fig 1. The furling device 50 comprises booms  
4 51,52 each provided with a tail fin 53,54 at the end  
5 thereof. The airflow 15 will exert a certain  
6 pressure on the tail fins 53,54. The tail fins will  
7 balance and stabilise the position of the rotor 20  
8 with respect to the direction of the airflow 15.  
9 When the direction of the airflow 15 changes the  
10 resulting pressure on the tail fins 53,54 will also  
11 change. The resulting force will cause the rotor 20  
12 to rotate in order to maintain the direction of the  
13 airflow 15 in essence in line with the rotational  
14 axis 26 of the rotor 20. During normal furling the  
15 presence of the aerofoil 21 will reduce vibrations  
16 caused by imbalanced blade tip vortex shedding.  
17 This is achieved in that the aerofoil will act to  
18 divert the airflow from the blade tips during  
19 furling.  
20  
21 The furling device 50 according to the present  
22 invention not only maintains an optimal angle  
23 between the rotor 20 and the airflow 15, but in  
24 addition acts to protect the turbine 20 during  
25 excessively high wind loadings. The furling device  
26 50 is designed to rotate the turbine 20 out of the  
27 airflow when the wind velocity exceeds the output  
28 power requirements of the turbine or when the wind  
29 loading compromises the integrity of the rotor 20.  
30 As shown in Fig 2, the tail fins 53,54 form a wedge  
31 pointing into, out of substantially parallel to the  
32 wind. Excessive wind loadings will make the tail

1 fins 53,54 move and/or rotate with respect to the  
2 nacelle 41. Preferably one of the fins has no  
3 travel or limited travel, causing the rotor 20 to  
4 furl as the second fin continues to rotate under  
5 high airflow velocities. It means that the furling  
6 mechanism 50 according to the present invention  
7 under moderate wind velocity will keep the rotor 20  
8 in a stable condition and at a preferred angle with  
9 respect to the airflow 15. Only after exceeding a  
10 predetermined wind velocity, the same furling device  
11 50 will cause the rotor 20 to rotate out of the wind  
12 in order to protect the integrity thereof.

13

14 The construction of the furling device 50 according  
15 to the present invention causes the furling device  
16 to act non-linearly in relation to the wind  
17 velocity. The furling device 50 limits the  
18 turbine's susceptibility to gusts and turbulence.  
19 Light gusts will not be able to move the rotor out  
20 of the wind. The safety function of the furling  
21 device 50 will only operate in high wind situations  
22 in order to protect the turbine and a respective  
23 generator.

24

25 As shown in Fig 2 the booms 51 and 52 extend from  
26 the nacelle to the tail fins, in the downwind  
27 direction of the rotor 20. The respective tail fins  
28 53 and 54 are positioned essentially in line with  
29 the exterior dimensions of the rotor 20. The  
30 construction of the furling device 50 according to  
31 the present invention enables a compact construction  
32 and does not necessitate free space behind the



1 nacelle 41. That means that the design of this  
2 furling system allows the overall length of the  
3 turbine to be considerably reduced when compared to  
4 existing wind turbines.

5  
6 In Figs 3 and 4 the first embodiment of the boom 51  
7 and respective tail fin 53 is shown. The arrows  
8 indicate the movement of the boom 51 with respect to  
9 the nacelle 41. The angle between the rotation axis  
10 26 of the rotor (not shown) and the tail fin 53 is  
11 changed by use of a hinge 60 located at the base of  
12 the boom 51. As shown in Fig 4, the boom 51 is held  
13 at a fixed angle to axis 26 by a coil spring 61.  
14 When the wind loading on the fin 53 is sufficiently  
15 large, the boom 51 and the fin 53 rotate against the  
16 retaining force of the coil spring 61, causing an  
17 out of balance aerodynamic loading on the rotor 20.  
18 This out of balance force will cause the nacelle to  
19 rotate about its mounting axis 42 (see Fig 1). It  
20 should be noted that the coil spring 61 as shown in  
21 Fig 4 is simply for explanatory purposes and any  
22 type of spring could be used in the hinge 60.

23  
24 In Fig 5 an alternative embodiment is shown wherein  
25 the rotation of the furling fin takes place about a  
26 hinge 70 located at the outer tip of the boom. As  
27 shown in Fig 5 clockwise rotation of the fin 53 at  
28 the hinge 70 is limited by an end stop 71. The  
29 anti-clockwise rotation of the fin 53 is restrained  
30 by the reaction of a coil spring (not shown). When  
31 the speed of the airflow 15 increases to a level at  
32 which furling is required, the retaining force of

1 the spring in the hinge 70 is overcome and the fin  
2 53 will rotate. This causes an out of balance  
3 aerodynamic loading on the rotor. This out of  
4 balance force will again cause the nacelle to rotate  
5 about its mounting axis 42, until the aerodynamic  
6 forces on the turbine are in equilibrium. The non-  
7 linear furling mechanism 50 according to the present  
8 invention will keep the turbine windward and stable  
9 until the wind velocity compromises the systems  
10 safety and the turbine is progressively yawed from  
11 the wind. The furling device 50 therefore reduces  
12 constant yawing of the turbine during gusts, which  
13 would otherwise create unwanted oscillations and  
14 turbine blade noise.

15

16 The actual furling angle necessary to protect the  
17 wind turbine can be limited because of the presence  
18 of the aerofoil 21. A certain furling of the rotor  
19 20 will result in aerodynamic stalling along the  
20 foil 21. As soon as the stalling starts, the power  
21 of the wind flow 15 on the rotor 20 will drop.

22

23 In Fig 6 a schematic overview of a wind turbine  
24 heating system is shown. The wind turbine heating  
25 system comprises a first water reservoir 118. In  
26 the water reservoir one or more electric heating  
27 elements 114 are provided. The electrical heating  
28 elements 114 are coupled with the wind turbine 10  
29 via a control unit 116. The electrical current  
30 generated by the wind turbine 10 will be directed to  
31 the electrical heating elements 114 in order to heat  
32 up the water contained in reservoir 118. While the

1 efficiency of the heat transfer for electric heating  
2 elements may be considered to be near 100%,  
3 operating an element at a lower power input than  
4 that for which it was designed results in a lower  
5 element temperature. The nature of wind power is  
6 such that the power output will usually be  
7 considerably below the overall rated power of the  
8 heating system. As such, it is necessary to use  
9 heating elements 114 with an appropriate power  
10 rating.

11  
12 The water reservoir 118 is designed to store warm  
13 water, prior to use. The reservoir 118 may be a  
14 cylinder manufactured from copper alloy, though  
15 enamelled steels and plastic may also be used.  
16 Steel cylinders are better suited to higher pressure  
17 applications, while copper is attractive due to its  
18 inherent corrosion resistance and the associated  
19 long service-life. For vented systems and their  
20 associated lower cylinder pressure, copper cylinders  
21 are well suited.

22  
23 When, using the system according to Fig 6, all of  
24 the water in the reservoir 118 has been heated to  
25 the maximum allowable temperature, the control unit  
26 116 will no longer allow the heating elements 114 to  
27 dissipate power into the water reservoir 118. That  
28 means that the power generated by the wind turbine  
29 has to be "dumped" elsewhere. As long as the wind  
30 turbine 10 is generating electricity, it is  
31 essential that there is a means of dissipating the  
32 electrical energy at all times.

1 This is done by using a heating element 115 immersed  
2 in water. This can be installed to preheat the  
3 water in a cold water reservoir 120. If the volume  
4 of the cold water cistern is in the region of 200-  
5 300 litres, as is typical of a small house, then  
6 this would be sufficient to dissipate any quantity  
7 of excess power. If the reservoir 120 were not  
8 insulated then much of the heat energy would be lost  
9 to the surroundings in any case. The frequency with  
10 which the dump load would be utilised should be  
11 sufficiently small that there would be no  
12 economically feasible means of utilising the excess  
13 power. Excess power from the wind turbine could  
14 also be directed to a building space-heating system,  
15 or used to pre-heat a cold water feed to a boiler or  
16 similar water heating equipment.

17  
18 Water heated in a hot water reservoir 118 with  
19 elements 114 will tend to form stratified layers.  
20 The temperature within each layer will not vary much  
21 as heat will be spread by conduction and convection.  
22 A high temperature gradient exists between layers.  
23 Heat transfer by conduction is very low in water.  
24 This phenomenon would be useful in a situation where  
25 several heating elements are used, as the top layer  
26 could be heated up, and then left undisturbed by the  
27 convection below it as lower layers were  
28 subsequently heated.

29  
30 It should be noted that the heating element design  
31 described herein could be used with or without a  
32 mains connection in tandem. The mains connection

1 would allow the immersion heating element (or a  
2 dedicated mains element) to provide energy when none  
3 is available from the wind turbine.

4  
5 Typically the rated power of the heating system  
6 according to Fig 6 could be in the range of about 3  
7 kW.

8  
9 With respect to the efficiency of the wind turbine,  
10 the power extracted from the wind by the rotor  
11 should be limited to approximately 60% (59,6%).  
12 Because of the fact that the wind turbine according  
13 to the present invention will be operated in mainly  
14 turbulent airflows, the efficiency of the wind  
15 turbine according to the present invention can be  
16 improved by adding a new control system.

17  
18 Fig 7 schematically shows the working of the control  
19 system according to the present invention. First,  
20 the load on the wind turbine is near a predetermined  
21 starting level (L0). The control system will  
22 measure the corresponding yields of the wind  
23 turbine. Thereafter the load on the wind turbine is  
24 increased or decreased by a small amount. In the  
25 example of Fig 7 the load on the wind turbine is  
26 decreased. Thereafter the control system measures  
27 the new yield level of the wind turbine. If the  
28 yield is found, the same procedure is repeated.  
29 That means that as long as the yield increases the  
30 load will be decreased. As soon as a further  
31 decrease of the load will result in a decrease of  
32 the yield, the process is reversed. That means that

1     then the load on the wind turbine will be increased  
2     and the corresponding effect on the yield will be  
3     monitored.

4  
5     Because of the fact that the wind velocity on the  
6     rotor will be continuously alternating, the time  
7     interval for increasing and decreasing the amount of  
8     load on the wind turbine will typically be in the  
9     range of several microseconds.

10  
11    The efficiency of the wind turbine heating system  
12    can be further increased when using an alternative  
13    water reservoir 120 as shown in Fig 8. The water  
14    reservoir 119 is provided with an electrical heating  
15    element 124. The heating element 124 is covered,  
16    over a substantive length thereof, by means of an  
17    enclosing tube 125. The bottom end 126 of the tube  
18    125 is open. This enables water to flow in between  
19    the exterior of the heating device 124 and the  
20    interior of the tube 125. As soon as current passes  
21    through the element 124 the electrical energy will  
22    be converted into heat energy and this heat energy  
23    is then transferred to the water. The water film  
24    directly enclosing the heating element 124 will be  
25    heated and, due to natural convection, will flow  
26    towards the top of the reservoir 128 and is  
27    prevented from diffusing radially into the reservoir  
28    128. Because of the presence of the tube 125 the  
29    heated water is directed towards a warm water zone  
30    130 in a top part of the reservoir 128. The heat  
31    generated by the heating element 124 therefore is  
32    concentrated in the top part of the reservoir 128

1 and is prevented from diffusing radially into the  
2 reservoir 128. This will limit the time necessary  
3 to heat up water to a preferred temperature thus  
4 reducing the energy consumption of thereof.

5  
6 As soon as the power generated by the wind turbine  
7 is increased, the amount of heat transferred to the  
8 water in the reservoir 128 is also increased. This  
9 means that the flow of heated water towards the top  
10 part of the reservoir 128 will increase, resulting  
11 in mixing the thermally stratified layers, and in an  
12 enlarged warm water area 130. This effect is shown  
13 in Fig 9. Because of the construction of the  
14 reservoir 128, power no longer has to be "dumped".  
15 The use of the reservoir 128 is especially suitable  
16 for a wind turbine, because of the fact that the  
17 nature of wind power is such that the power output  
18 will usually fluctuate and moreover will be below  
19 the overall rated power of the heating system.

20  
21 During normal operation of a wind turbine according  
22 to the invention, vibrations are caused by harmonic  
23 resonance within the turbine, tower and mounting  
24 structure. These come from blade imbalances, due to  
25 deformation during operation or bearing vibration in  
26 the generator and turbine hub. Eliminating  
27 resonance in micro-wind turbines is especially  
28 difficult as they operate through a wide  
29 range of turbine tip-speeds. The design described  
30 below reduces the operating vibrations by  
31 controlling the turbine tip-speeds so that they

1 remain outside natural resonant frequencies, and  
2 through novel vibration absorption measures.  
3 Mounting a horizontal axis wind turbine on a  
4 building structure requires the damping of critical  
5 frequencies and the moving of harmonics beyond the  
6 system operating frequencies. The damping system on  
7 the rooftop wind turbine is integrated into the  
8 design of the mounting means and nacelle of the  
9 turbine. These vibration absorbing systems work  
10 together to create a silent running rooftop turbine.  
11  
12 The novel wind turbine mounting bracket uses a  
13 sandwich construction of viscoelastic materials and  
14 structural materials.  
15  
16 The mounting means tower contains an innovative  
17 core, typically of rubber, which has some sections  
18 which have a reduced cross-sectional area and are  
19 not in contact with the mounting means' inner  
20 surface and some sections which are. This serves to  
21 absorb vibrations in the mounting means through the  
22 energy dissipated in the rubber core before they  
23 reach the mounting bracket. The rubber core also  
24 acts to force the system's resonant frequency above  
25 the turbine driving frequency.  
26  
27 In Fig 10 a possible embodiment of the interior of  
28 the mounting means is shown, in cross-section. In  
29 this embodiment, the mounting means is tubular in  
30 cross-section. The mounting means 40 comprises a  
31 hollow core wherein a cylindrical core element 90 is  
32 present. The core element 90 in the middle thereof



1 is provided with a hollow section 91 in order to  
2 allow elements such as a power line to be guided  
3 through the interior of the core element 90. The  
4 core element 90 is provided with sections 92 with an  
5 exterior diameter corresponding substantially to  
6 the interior diameter of the mounting means 40.  
7 These sections alternate with sections 93 that have  
8 a reduced diameter and are not in contact with the  
9 mounting means' 40 inner radial surface. The  
10 sandwich mounting bracket together with the mounting  
11 means core design suppresses vibrations in the  
12 system. The main sources for those vibrations are  
13 vibrations transmitted from the wind turbine to the  
14 building, and the aerodynamic turbulence around  
15 obstacles, which decreases power output but more  
16 importantly shortens the working life of the wind  
17 turbine.

18  
19 In Fig. 11 an alternative embodiment of the interior  
20 of the mounting means is shown, in cross-section.  
21 The hollow core of the mounting means 40 is provided  
22 with a core element 94. The core element 94 in the  
23 middle thereof is provided with a hollow section 91.  
24 The core element 94 is provided with sections 92  
25 with an exterior diameter corresponding  
26 substantially to the interior diameter of the  
27 mounting means 40. These sections alternate with  
28 sections 93 that have a reduced diameter and are not  
29 in contact with the mounting means' 40 inner radial  
30 surface. When comparing Figs 10 and 11 it will be  
31 clear that the shape of the recesses in respective  
32 core elements 90 and 94 differs. It should be noted

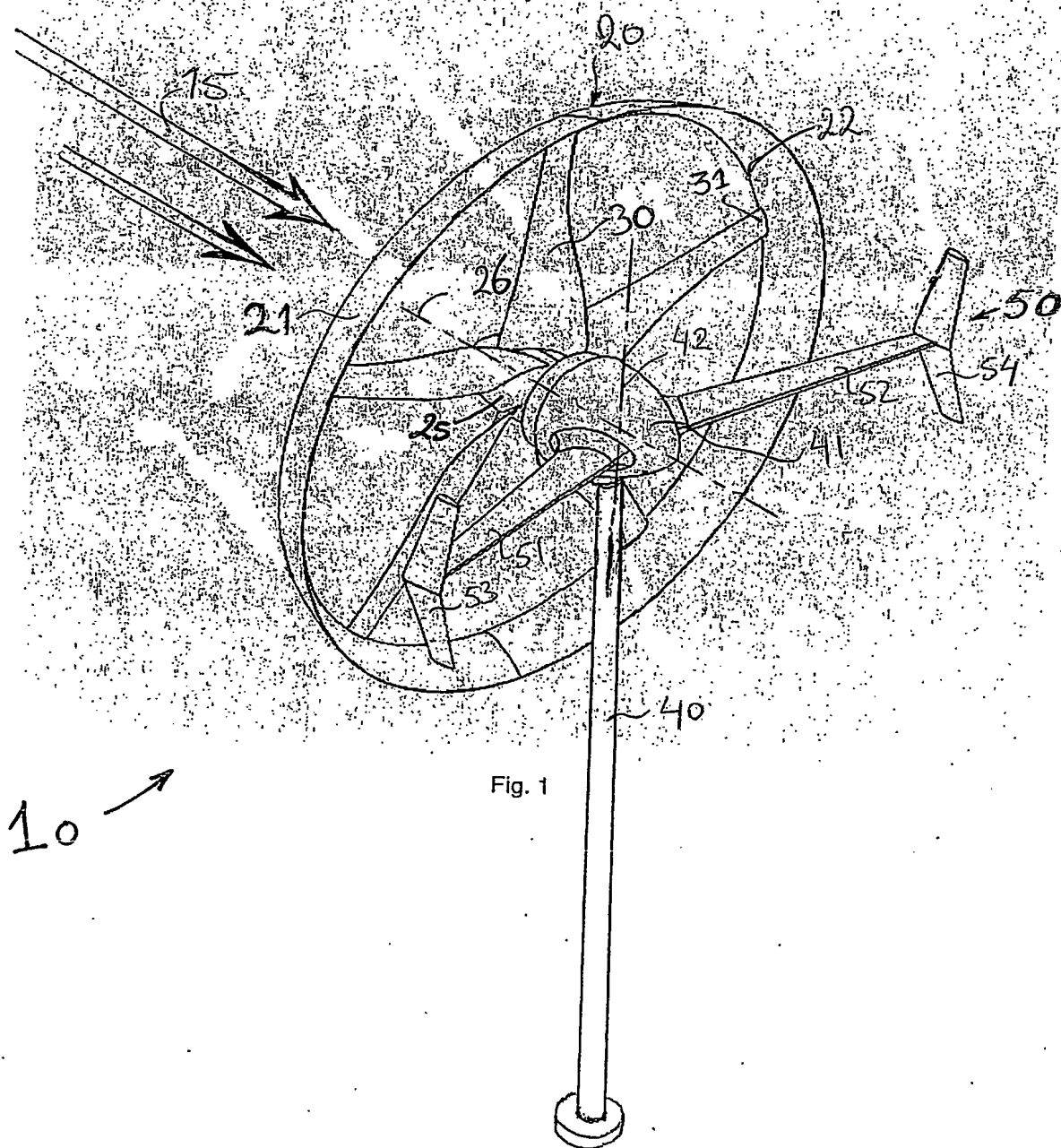
1 that Figs 10 and 11 are for illustration purposes  
2 only. Alternative embodiments for the core elements  
3 are also possible.

4  
5 Fig 12 shows a further embodiment of the interior of  
6 the mounting means 40. As shown in Fig 12, the  
7 interior of the mounting means 40 comprises several  
8 core elements 95, which are inserted in the mounting  
9 means wherein a first element 95 abuts an adjacent  
10 element 95. In the example of Fig 12 the shape of  
11 the recesses in the respective elements 95 again  
12 differs from the embodiments according to Fig 10 and  
13 Fig 11.

14  
15 In a wind turbine noise comes from two areas,  
16 aerodynamic sources and mechanical sources.  
17 Aerodynamic noise is radiated from the blades,  
18 originating due to the interaction of the blade  
19 surfaces with turbulence and natural atmospheric or  
20 viscous flow in the boundary layer around the  
21 blades. Mechanical noise is due to the relative  
22 motion of mechanical components and the dynamic  
23 response among them. This effect may be magnified  
24 if the nacelle, rotor and tower transmit the  
25 mechanical noise and radiate it, acting as a  
26 loudspeaker. Two types of noise problem exist: air  
27 borne noise which is noise which is transmitted  
28 directly from the component surface or interior into  
29 the air, and structure borne noise which is  
30 transmitted through the structure before being  
31 radiated by another component.

32

1 The turbine mounting and mounting means are designed  
2 to push the resonant frequency of the whole  
3 structure above the operation vibration frequencies  
4 caused by blade unbalances and deformations. The  
5 mounting contains a damping system which eliminates  
6 vibrations.



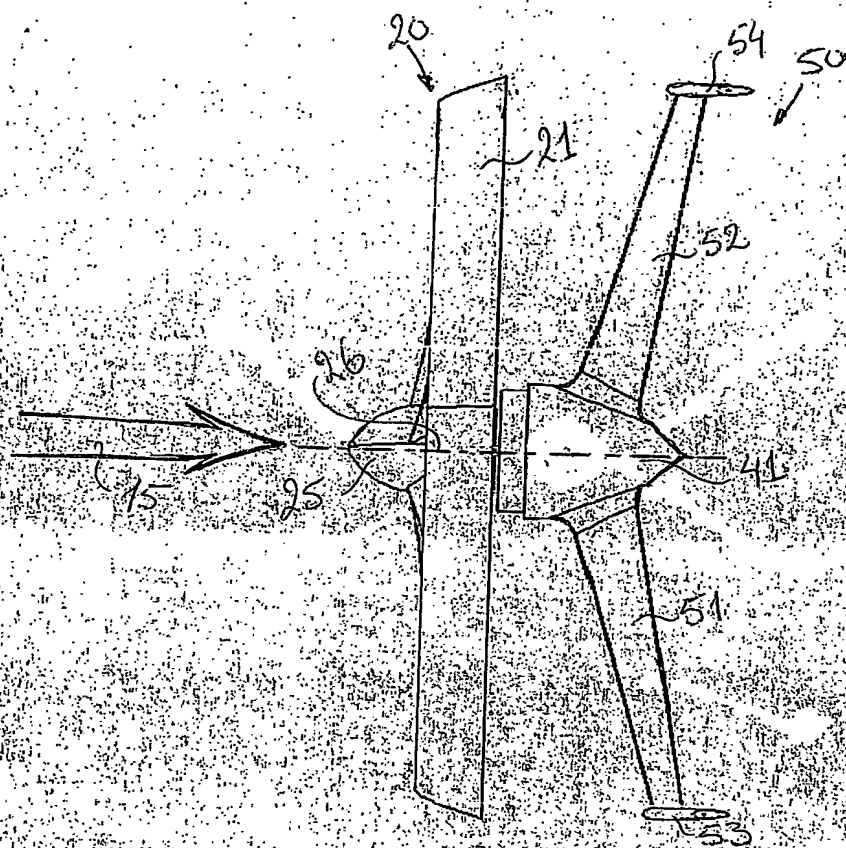


FIG. 2

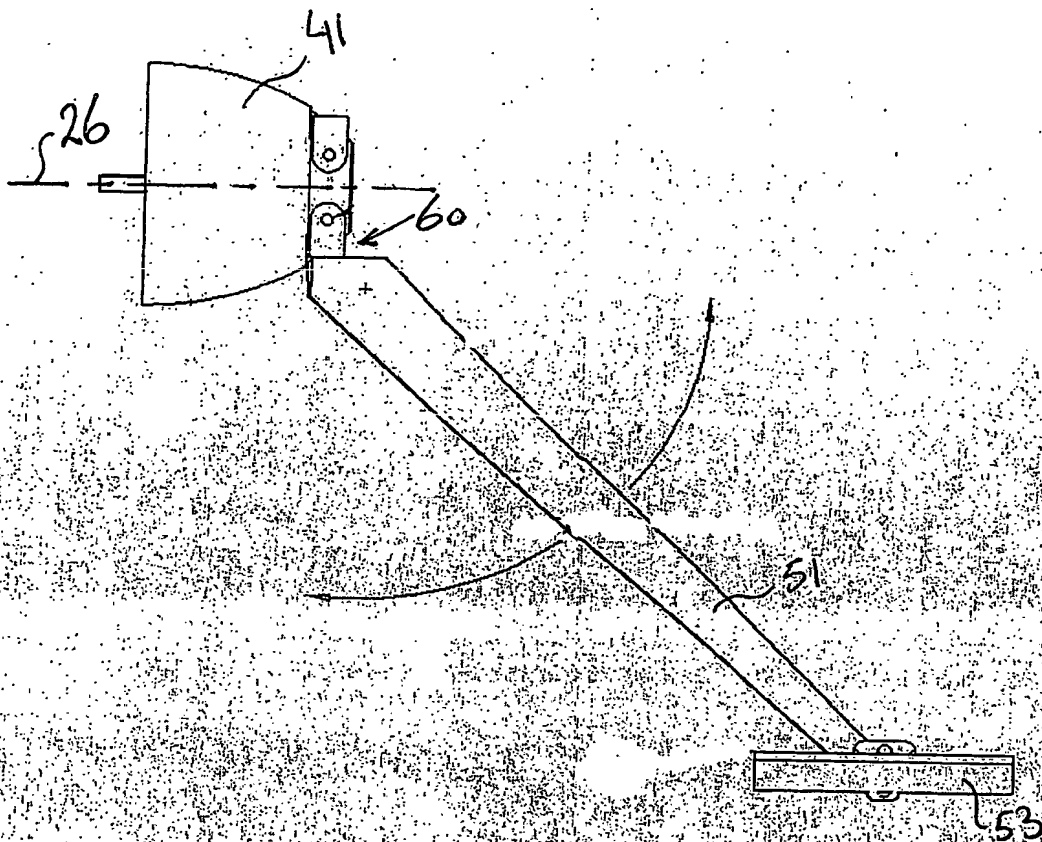


Fig. 3

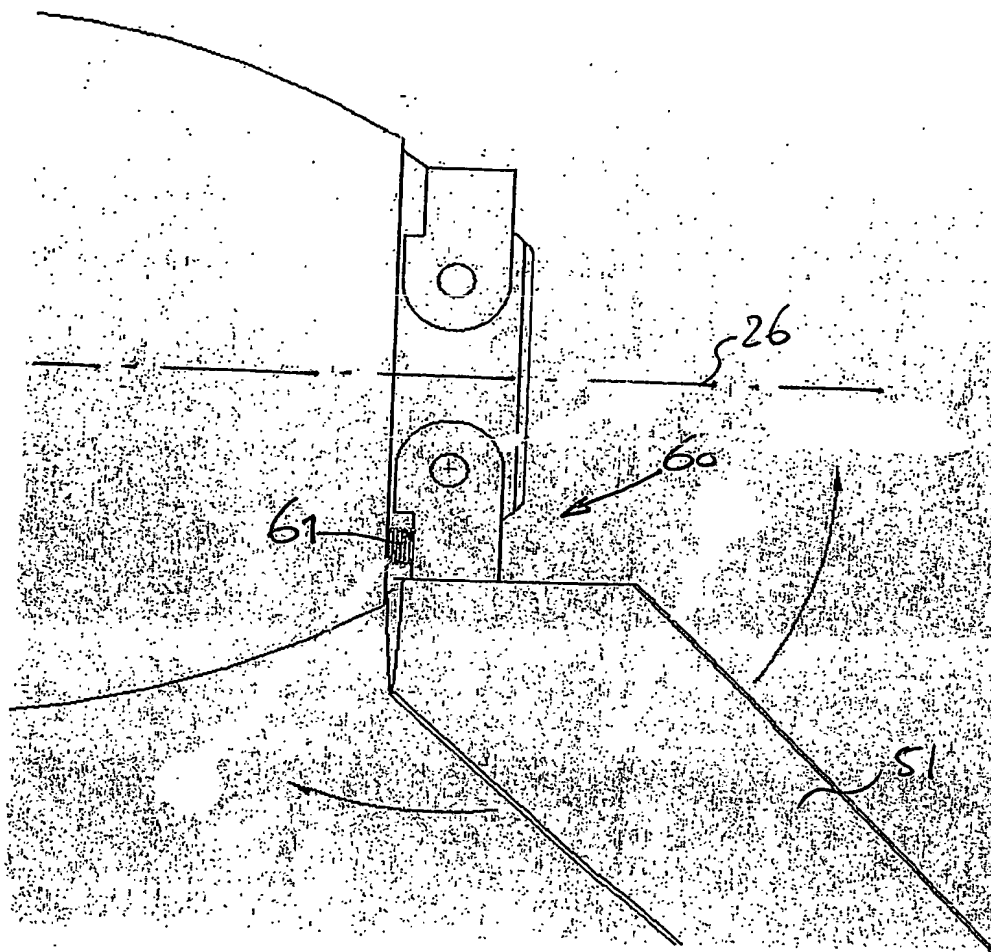


FIG. 4

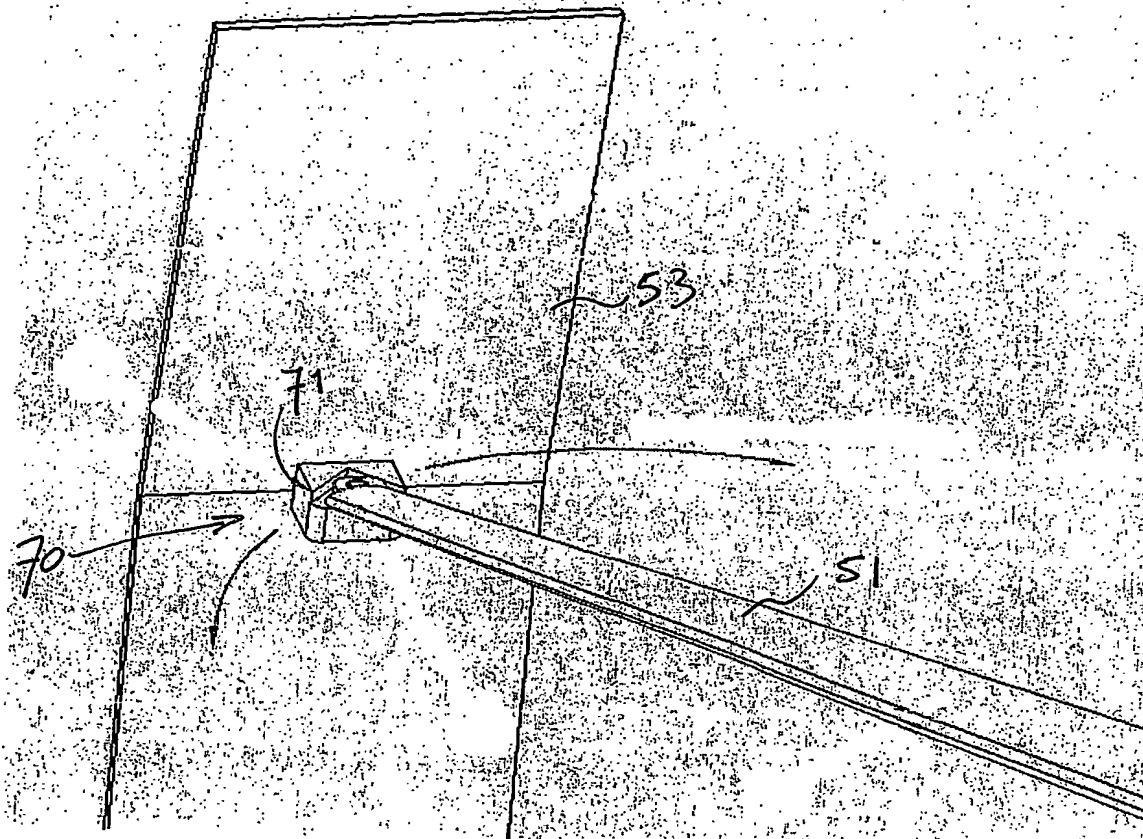


Fig. 5



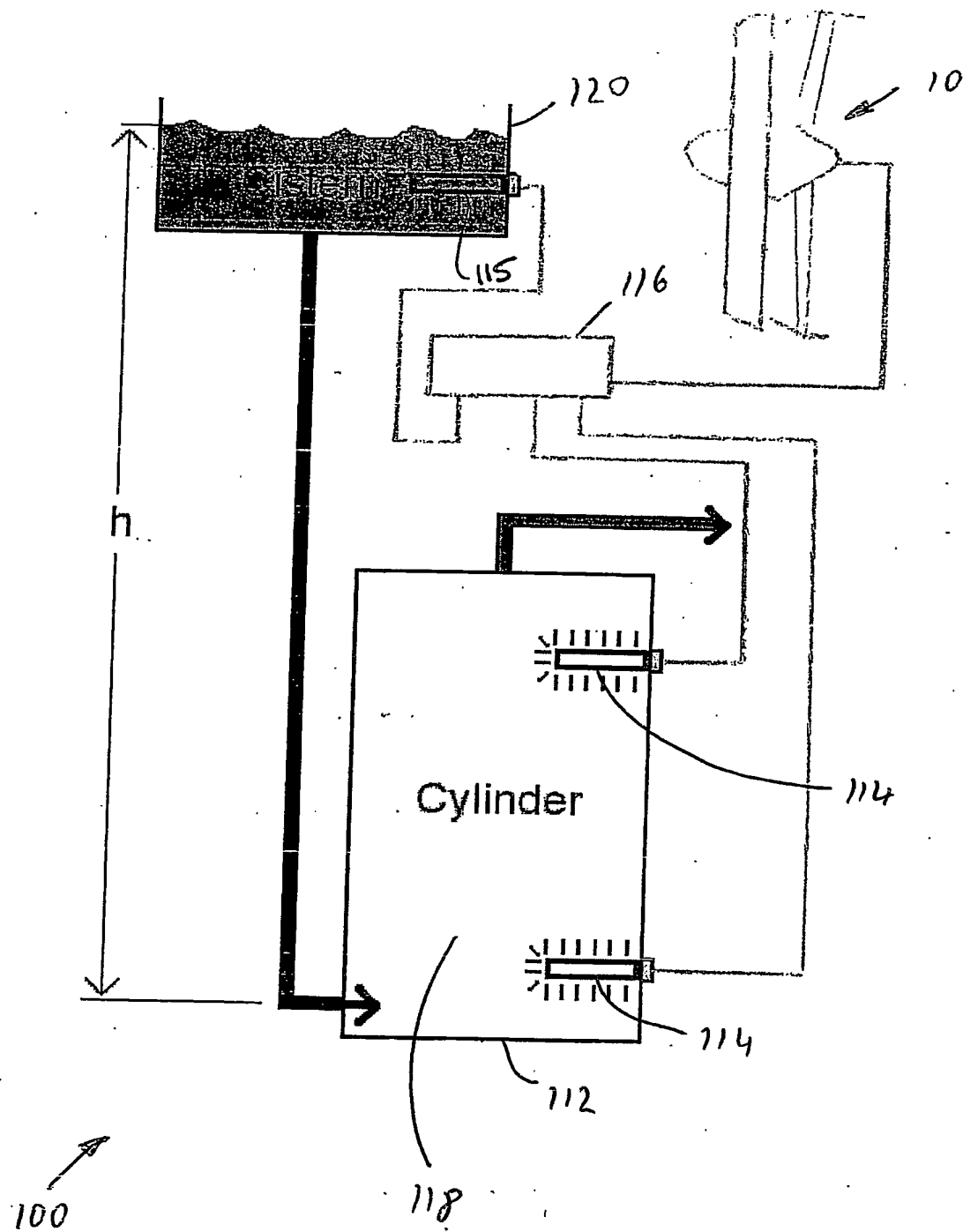


FIG. 6

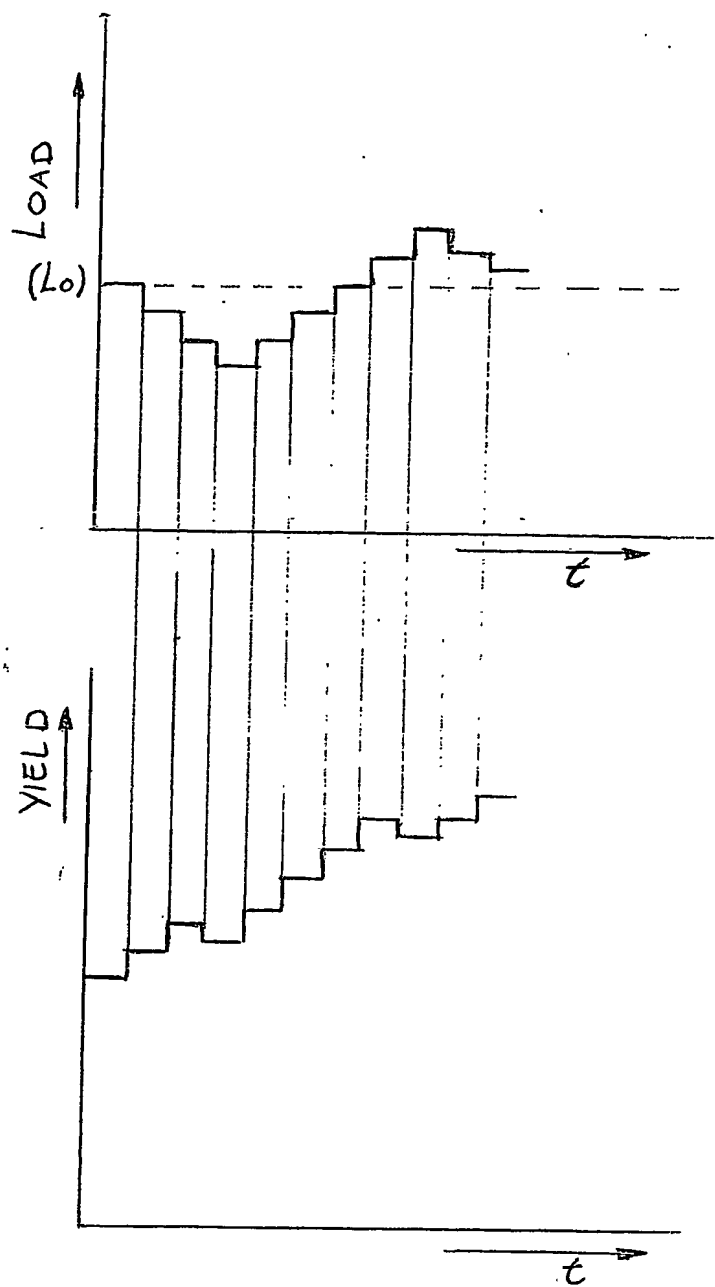


FIG. 7

FIG. 8.

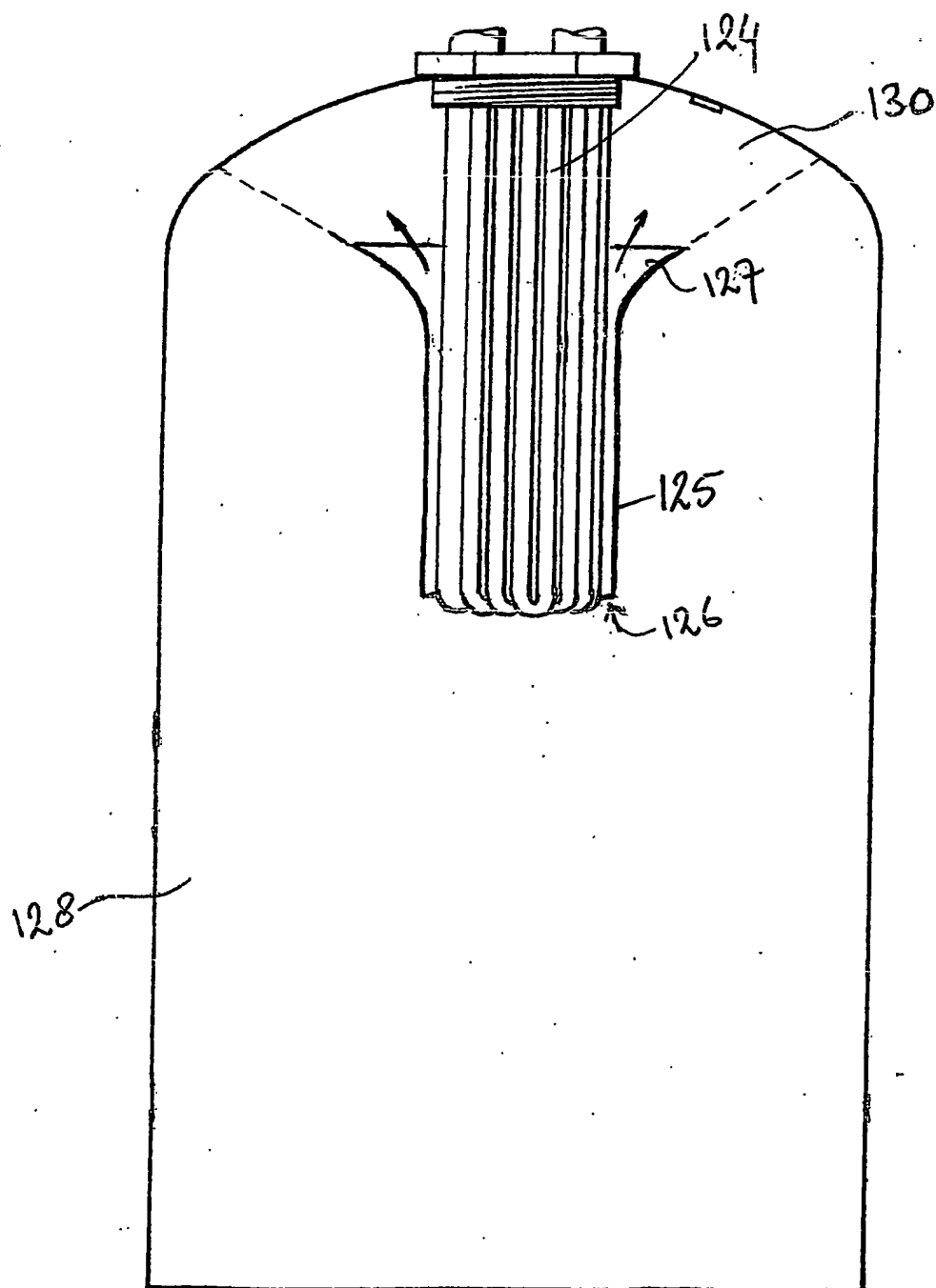
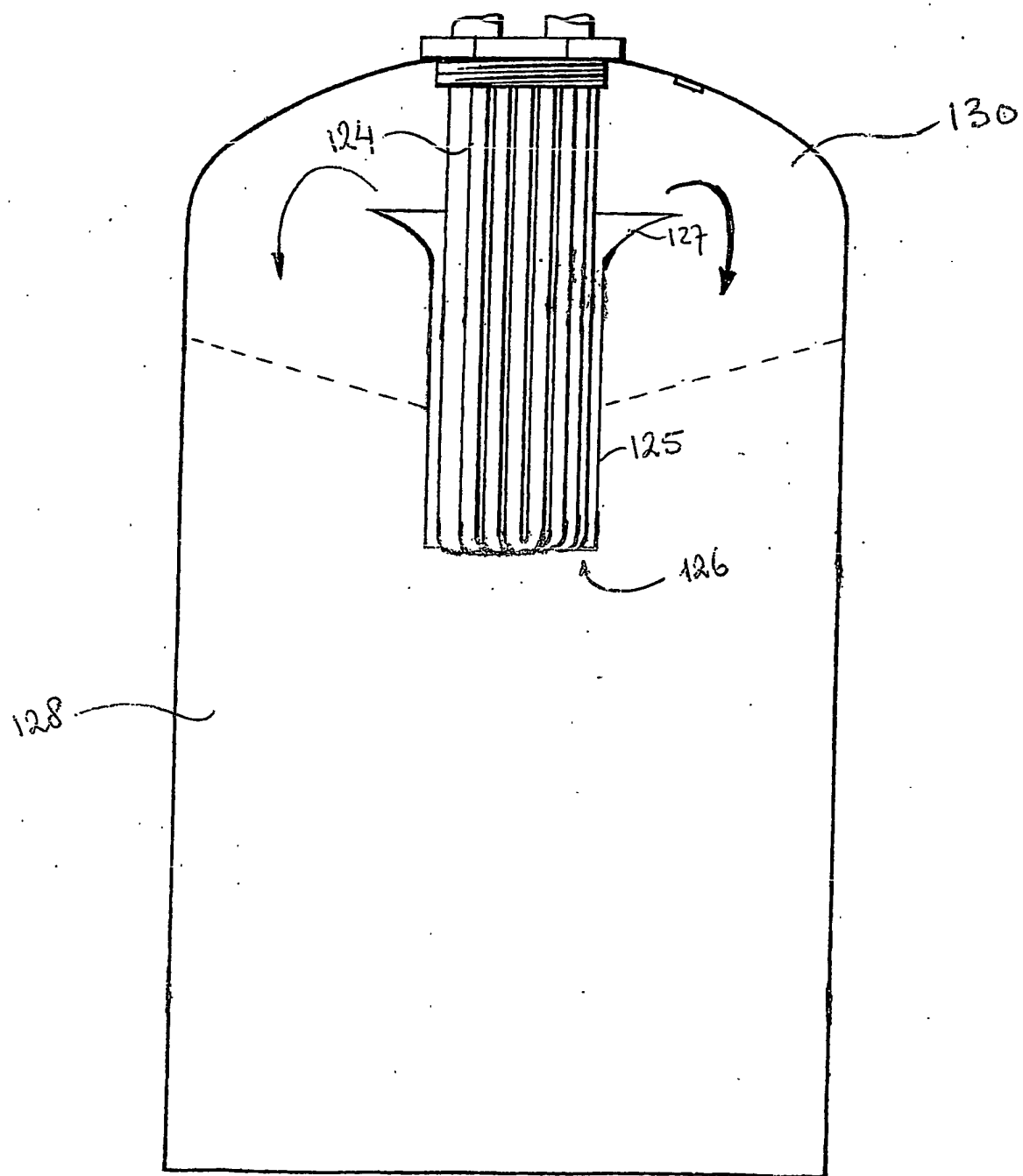


FIG. 9



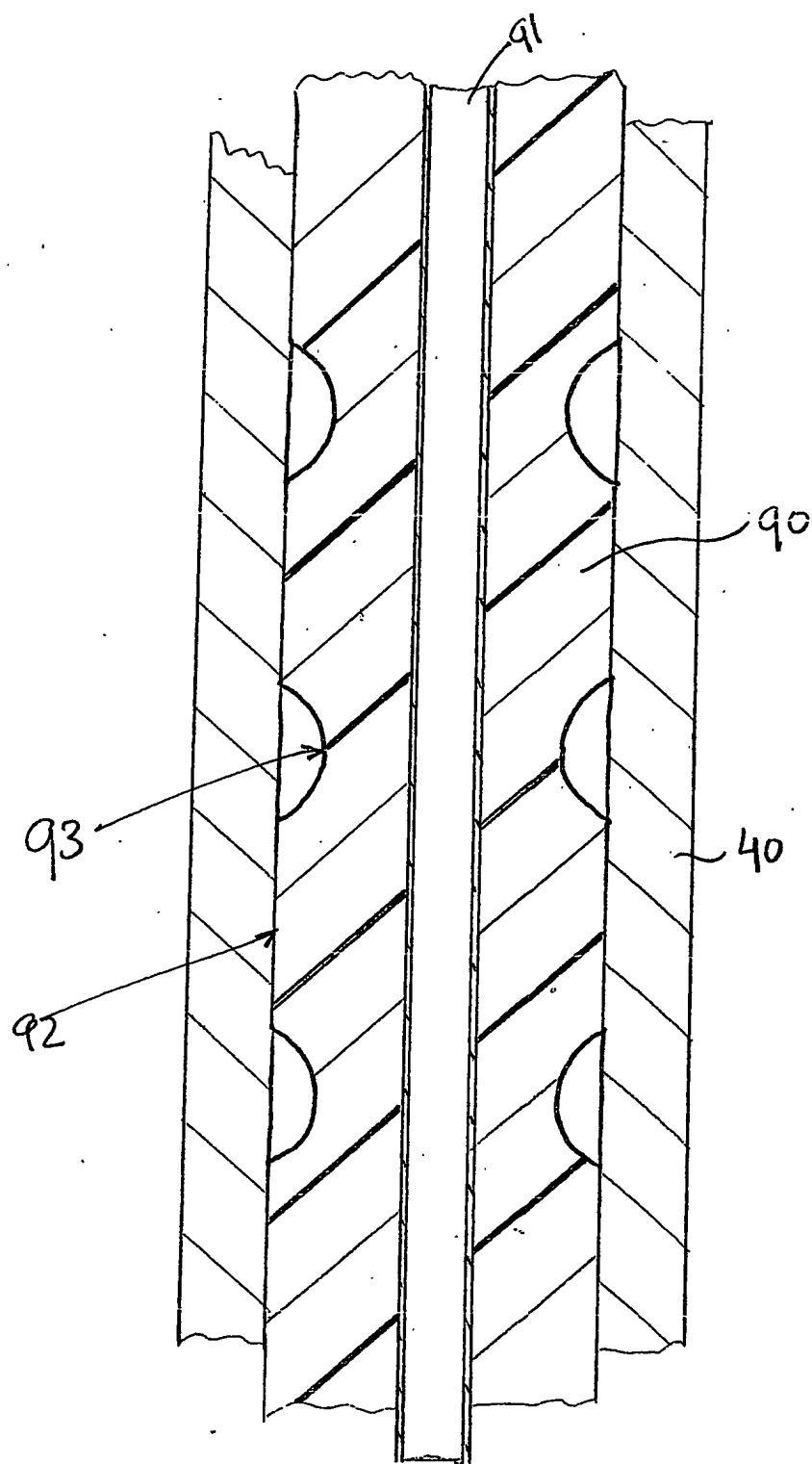


FIG. 10

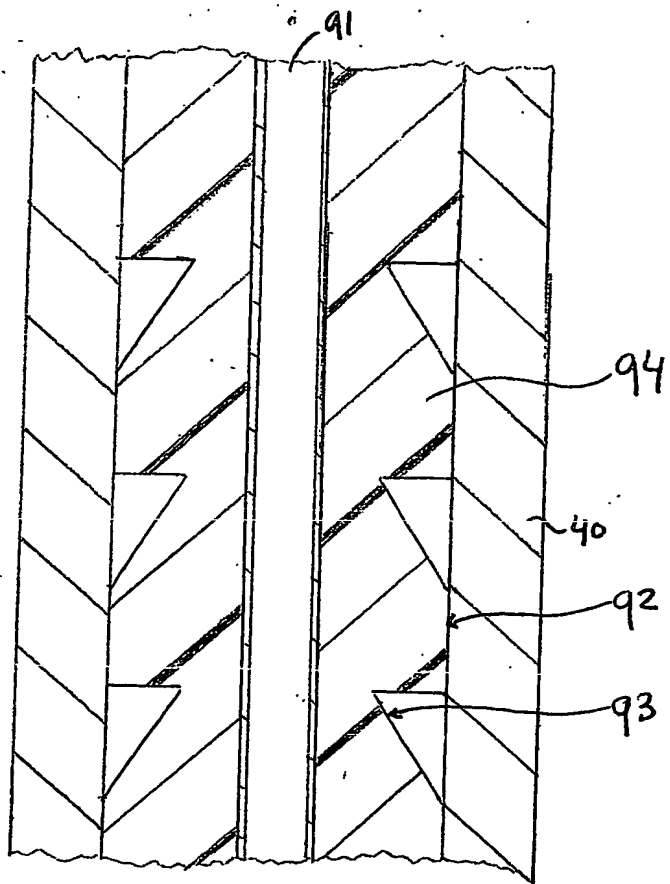


FIG. 11

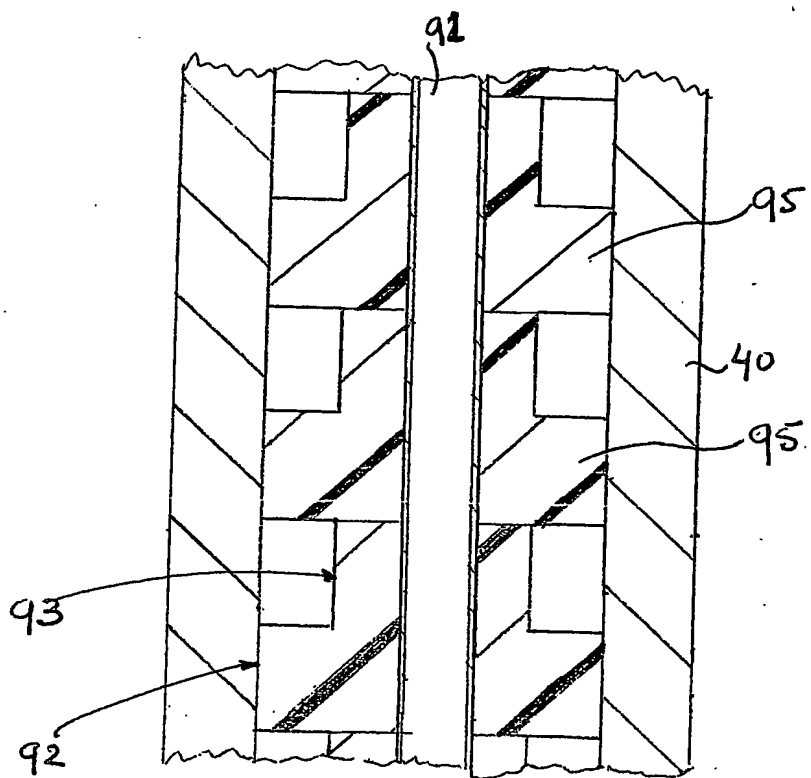


FIG. 12



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